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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

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IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (10 May 67) FOR OT ✓

17 May 1967

**SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters,
2d Howitzer Battalion, 35th Artillery (U)**

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Forwarded as inclosure is Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 2d Howitzer Battalion, 35th Artillery for quarterly period ending 31 January 1967. Information contained in this report should be reviewed and evaluated by CDC in accordance with paragraph 6f of AR 1-19 and by CONARC in accordance with paragraph 6c and d of AR 1-19. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to the Commandants of the Service Schools to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations, and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

Kenneth G. Wickham

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

1 Incl
as

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(Continued on page 2)

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 2D HOWITZER BATTALION, 35TH ARTILLERY (14).
APO San Francisco 96257

AVGAY-00

1 February 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967,
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65 (U)

THRU: Commanding Officer
54th Artillery Group
ATTN: AVGA-C
APO San Francisco 96257

12 9 p.
18 EACSFOR

Commanding General
II Field Force Vietnam Artillery
ATTN: AVFB-PA-C
APO San Francisco 96227

19 OT-RD-670015

Commanding General
United States Army Vietnam
ATTN: AVC-DH
APO San Francisco 96307

Commander-in-Chief
United States Army Pacific
ATTN: GPOF-MH
APO San Francisco 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development
Department of the Army
Washington, D. C. 20310

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SECTION I

(8) Significant Organisation or Unit Activities.

a. Administration/ Personnel. None

b. Intelligence. None

c. Training.

(1) Memorandums pertaining to a training program and gunnery procedures were published on 1 November 1966.

(2) On 3 November 1966, the four officers and ten enlisted men that attended Nuclear Weapons Refresher Training with the Eighth U.S. Army, Korea, returned to Vietnam. Overall impression of training received was excellent.

(3) On the job training and individual cross training continue in all sections of the battalion.

d. Operations.

(1) HQ and B batteries continued General Support II Field Force Vietnam and Reinforcing of the 18th ARVN Division Artillery from the Xuan Loc base camp. Battery C base camp is now located in the vicinity of Bien Hoa, coordinates XT023147, General Support II Field Force Vietnam, Reinforcing 3/319 Arty. Battery A continued General Support II Field Force Vietnam and Reinforcing the 1/83 Artillery from the Nui Dat base camp. Service Battery (-) continued its support mission from Long Binh.

(2) During the quarter, elements of the battalion participated in thirteen (13) different field operations with the following breakdown by battery: Battery A, four (4) operations involving a total of thirty (30) days; Battery B, six (6) operations, fifty-three (53) days; Battery C, five (5) operations, sixty-three (63) days; and a Battalion HQ element accompanied Battery B on Operation Dan Tam 81 for twenty-three (23) days, and accompanied Batteries B and C on Operation Cedar Falls for sixteen (16) days. When not engaged in field operations, all batteries continued normal training, maintenance, area improvement, and provided fire support from their base camps.

(3) On 3 November, Battery B ended Operation Shenandoah West which had begun during the previous quarter and was discussed in the last report. Battery B was attached to the 1st Infantry Division and the only action during this period was redeployment to base camp.

(4) Battery A participated in Operations Yass and Haymen (combined), from 6 - 11 November. This was a search and destroy operation on Long Son Island, conducted by the 5th Royal Australian Regiment. The operation required deployment of one platoon to a forward firing position.

(5) On 5 November, Battery B was attached to the 1st Infantry Division and deployed to vicinity of Tay Ninh to support Operation Attleboro

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SECTION I (Cont'd)

a multi-division search and destroy operation. On 10 November, Battery C was also deployed to Tay Ninh and attached to the 1st Infantry Division. On 11 November, Battery B was attached to the 25th Infantry Division. Battery B was returned to base camp on 26 November. On 30 November, Battery C was attached to the 3d Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, with the mission of base camp defense of Da Tieng, deploying on 5 - 6 January for a road clearing operation, then to Lai Khe.

(6) On 2 December, Battery B was deployed in support of the 11th Armored Cavalry in an anti-ambush operation in the vicinity of Gia Ray. The battery returned to base camp on 3 December, and was again deployed to the 11th Armored Cavalry to support a search and destroy operation in the vicinity of Courtenay Rubber Plantation. The unit returned to the base camp on 6 December.

(7) Battery A participated in two search and destroy operations with the 1st Australian Task Force; Operation Ingham, 18 - 28 November, and Operation Canary, 4 - 14 December, both of which required the movement of one platoon to a forward fire base while maintaining a fire support mission in the base camp.

(8) On 8 December, Battery B and an operations element from Headquarters Battery were attached to the 11th Armored Cavalry for Operation Dan Tam 81, a combination route security and search and destroy mission. The battalion control element functioned as artillery control headquarters for three batteries (Battery B, 2d Howitzer Battalion, 35th Artillery; Battery B, 7th Howitzer Battalion, 9th Artillery; and Howitzer Battery, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment). Units returned to base camp on 30 December.

(9) Batteries B, C and elements of Headquarters Battery were deployed to vicinity of Lai Khe on 6 January, and were attached to the 1st Infantry Division for Operation Cedar Falls, a multi-division search and destroy operation in the "Iron Triangle". Units were detached on 21 January.

(10) Ammunition expenditures for this quarter were as follows:

	<u>November</u>		<u>December</u>		<u>January</u>	
	<u>Mans</u>	<u>Rds</u>	<u>Mans</u>	<u>Rds</u>	<u>Mans</u>	<u>Rds</u>
Battery A	552	2775	417	3581	357	2682
Battery B	442	4143	609	2809	1119	9750
Battery C	619	7948	653	4055	813	10027
Sub-Total	1,613	14,866	1,679	10,445	2,289	22,459

Battalion Total: 5,581 Missions; 47,770 Rounds Expended

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SECTION II

Commander's Observations and Recommendations

Part I. Observations.

- a. Personnel. None
- b. Operations.

ARTILLERY GROUND CLEARANCE

ITEM: Establishment of one ground clearance agency.

DISCUSSION: On several occasions this unit was in a position with the capability of firing into several areas of operation. This unit did not have the capability of monitoring all radio command frequencies, therefore it was impossible to maintain current unit locations. This task was made more difficult due to the inability of the units to utilize a standard points of origin system. The "standard points of origin system" is the selection of arbitrary grid intersections and assigning them code names. The code name is utilized as a starting reference and right, left, up and down shifts are given to any desired point. This creates a rapid, simple method of encrypting unit locations.

OBSERVATION: A single radio frequency with coordinated points of origin for all units participating in the same operation would increase speed and reliability of artillery.

ARTILLERY AIR WARNING NOTIFICATION

ITEM: Establishment of one air warning net.

DISCUSSION: In order to properly effect aircraft notification of artillery firing, this battalion has had to provide firing data to three separate air warning stations.

OBSERVATION: Furnishing the data to all these agencies generates an unnecessary delay in firing and seriously hampers the surprise element of artillery fires. Providing firing data to only one aircraft control station would eliminate excess radio transmission and save time.

ORGANIC AIRCRAFT

ITEM: Hardships created by lack of organic aircraft.

DISCUSSION: This battalion deployed to the Republic of Vietnam less any organic aircraft due to the Department of the Army deletion of the air augmentation as listed in the TOE. This lack of aircraft has proven a severe limitation in target acquisition, command and control, personnel movement, communications and movement of critical maintenance parts.

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SECTION II (Cont'd)

5 OBSERVATION: This artillery battalion should be authorized an augmentation of two O-1 type aircraft and one OH-13 or OH-23 aircraft.

- c. Training and Organization. None
- d. Intelligence. None
- e. Logistics.

AM RADIO TRANSMITTER FAILURE

ITEM: Failure of Radio Set, AN/GRC-46.

DISCUSSION: Radio Set AN/GRC-46 has been utilized to operate CW. Experience has shown that the T-195 transmitter does not hold up under prolonged use. Downtime rate for this transmitter and repair time has been excessive.

OBSERVATION: Radio Set AN/GRC-46 is not sufficiently durable for sustained operation in a tropical environment.

CHANGING OF TUBES ON M109 HOWITZER

ITEM: Avoiding delays in changing tubes on the M109 SP howitzer.

DISCUSSION: This unit had the opportunity to change four howitzer tubes in a field location. Several delays were experienced due to the lack of the proper sling for lifting the tube into position. This sling is available in Fourth Echelon ordnance shops and no substitute is acceptable. It was also discovered that the tube can be put in upside down which prevents the recoil from operating.

OBSERVATION: Prior to any tube changes, all inexperienced ordnance personnel should be briefed by experienced battalion maintenance personnel on problems encountered.

Part II. Recommendations.

a. Location of Friendly Forces: The establishment of one agency to disseminate locations of all friendly forces operating in any operational area. This agency should use one coordinated point of origin system to simplify the encrypting of locations.

b. Aircraft Control Stations: It is recommended that the aircraft control stations be consolidated under one agency for each operation. All air warnings should be transmitted on a common frequency so that all aircraft need monitor only one frequency, regardless of area.

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SECTION II (Cont'd)

c. AM Radio Transmitters: Recommend this battalion be furnished a new series AM radio transmitter capable of operating for sustained periods in a tropical atmosphere.

William H. Ritter
WILLIAM H RITTER
MAJ, Arty
Commanding

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AVGA-C (11 Feb 67) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operation Report on Lesson Learned (U)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 54TH ARTILLERY GROUP, APO 96376 25 February 1967

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the Army, Washington, D.C., 20310

1. (U) The quarterly report submitted by the 2d Bn, 35th Artillery is considered adequate.
2. (C) Reference Section II, Part I, paragraph B, Organic Aircraft. Artillery units in Vietnam are greatly hampered by the scarcity of aircraft. Due to widely scattered artillery batteries, command and staff visits are necessary daily. The terrain and cover make ground observation virtually impossible, and visual air reconnaissance becomes mandatory.
3. (C) Reference Section II, Part II, paragraph A.
 - a. Up-to-date information on friendly unit locations does continue to be a critical problem for the artillery unit capable of firing into the areas of operation of different brigades and different divisions. Do not concur with the idea of one agency disseminating locations of all friendly forces directly to battalions; the volume of traffic in a multi-division operation would make this solution impracticable.
 - b. Certain units are using point of origin codes. Concur that a standard code used by all units would simplify the task of keeping track of friendly unit locations.
4. (C) Reference Section II, Part II, paragraph B. Concur that one central AWCC (Artillery warning Control Center) for a given operation such as "Cedar Falls" is desirable. This central agency could direct incoming aircraft to sub-stations as necessary for a particular route of flight.
5. (C) Reference Section II, Part II, paragraph C. Concur with the need for a more dependable AM radio set. It is anticipated that issue in the future of the AN/GRC 122 will meet this need.

Charles M. Mizell
CHARLES M. NIZELL
Colonel, Artillery
Commanding

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